

MICHIGAN SENATE GOVERNMENTAL OPERATIONS COMMITTEE

Testimony re: HB 4271 and HB 5104, 1:00 P.M., March 11, 2014

Senator Randy Richardville, Chairman

Testimony of Chuck Ream of Ann Arbor, Executive Director, Safer Michigan Coalition, 33 year kindergarten teacher, 5 term township trustee. We run nearly all of the local cannabis law reform electoral campaigns in Michigan, which are always landslide victories.

Thank you for this hearing.

Representative Richardville kindly visited my kindergarten long ago. I have spent my life with children, and never would be involved with anything that could harm children.

The recent scare about cannabis damaging teenager's brains is only the new chapter of reefer madness.

Authoritative studies of lifetime marijuana only users (like me) show no lasting loss of cognitive function.

A new statistical analysis of the teen brain data, by Rogeberg, published by the National Academy of Sciences, shows that the teen brain results from New Zealand could have come from socioeconomic variables, not pot.

A huge majority of Michiganders want medical marijuana safely available, especially for patients too sick to grow it.

Good hearted law abiding people are patients, caregivers and dispensary owners. I used to run a dispensary, I hope to again; with more legal protection this time.

The main reason that Ann Arbor dispensaries have no problems is that cannabis is so safe; "the safest therapeutically active substance known to man" said DEA Federal Judge Francis Young. Also, dispensaries have built up great expertise about providing instructions.

We have had medical cannabis zoning and licensing ordinances for years in Ann Arbor, ten dispensaries have operated for years. These dispensaries diminish suffering and provide good economic activity with lots of jobs. Ann Arbor has not gone to hell; it flourishes. I invite you to tour a fine "provisioning center".

I appeal and pray and beg for this herbal medicine be made available, like the voters want it to be, (fully under the control of each individual town), to qualified Michigan patients who don't live in Washtenaw county. They deserve equal treatment.

Please watch TV tonight at ten; Sanjay Gupta will "double down" in support of medical marijuana.

Thank you very much,

Charles Ream, 734-395-0811, moksha@umich.edu